

Who Are Mathematics Specialists?

Mathematics Specialists are teacher leaders with strong preparation and background in mathematics content, instructional strategies, and school leadership. Based in elementary and middle schools, mathematics specialists are former classroom teachers who are responsible for supporting the professional growth of their colleagues and promoting enhanced mathematics instruction and student learning throughout their schools. They are responsible for strengthening classroom teachers' understanding of mathematics content, and helping teachers develop more effective mathematics teaching practices that allow all students to reach high standards as well as sharing research addressing how students learn mathematics.

The overarching purpose for Mathematics Specialists is to increase the mathematics achievement of all the students in their schools. To do so, they

- Collaborate with individual teachers through co-planning, co-teaching, and coaching;
- Assist administrative and instructional staff in interpreting data and designing approaches to improve student achievement and instruction;
- Ensure that the school curriculum is aligned with state and national standards and their school division's mathematics curriculum;
- Promote teachers' delivery and understanding of the school curriculum through collaborative long-range and short-range planning;
- Facilitate teachers' use of successful, research-based instructional strategies, including differentiated instruction for diverse learners such as those with limited English proficiency or disabilities;
- Work with parent/guardians and community leaders to foster continuing home/school/community partnerships focused on students' learning of mathematics; and
- Collaborate with administrators to provide leadership and vision for a school-wide mathematics program.

MSP School System Coordinators

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Masters Degree Program to prepare experienced K-5 teachers to serve as Mathematics Specialists

Three-Summer NSF Mathematics and Science Partnership Institute

**Participants will attend 20-day
residential program for three summers**

**in Richmond Virginia
2007**

**in Norfolk Virginia
2008**

**in Northern Virginia
2009**

**Sponsored by the Mathematics and Science
Partnership Program of the
National Science Foundation
EHR 0412324**

The NSF Mathematics Specialist Partnership Institute is being offered as a partnership program by Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Virginia, Norfolk State University, Alexandria City Public Schools, Arlington Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, Hanover County Public Schools, Norfolk Public Schools, Richmond Public Schools, Portsmouth Public Schools, Stafford County Public Schools, and the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition. Support is provided from the Mathematics and Science Partnership program of the National Science Foundation.

Each teacher who is selected will: participate in a 20 day Institute for three consecutive summers; complete a total of 33 graduate credits during the Institute sessions and the subsequent academic years; participate in a collection of Institute enrichment activities; earn a masters degree and meet the proposed requirements for certification as a Mathematics Specialist.

TO APPLY

Each partner school system will develop its procedures for selecting its participants. The System will submit its candidates to the MSP admissions committee by Wednesday, November 1. The packet for each participant will include:

- Application form;
- Transcripts of prior course work (unofficial transcripts may be submitted at this time; official transcripts will be required early in 2005 when selected candidates officially apply for admission to graduate school);
- Three Letters of recommendation, including one from the School System Coordinator. The letter from the Coordinator and at least one of the other letters should address the applicant's leadership experiences and abilities;
- Letter of Intent expressing experience as a teacher, interest in serving as a Mathematics Specialist and commitment to complete program and serve as Mathematics Specialist;
- Copy of standardized test scores in a sealed envelope.

Details of the Program

School systems will provide assurances that their participants will be employed as full-time, school-based Mathematics Specialists upon successful completion of the Institute Program.

The participants will express intent to complete the entire Institute/Masters program and accept assignment as Mathematics Specialist within their system.

The school systems will nominate their participants.

Each participant will be admitted to and will enroll in a Masters Degree program for Mathematics Specialists at one of the participating universities: Virginia Commonwealth University, Norfolk State University or the University of Virginia. Determination of which university will offer the degree will be based upon the requirements that the degree granting institute supervise the Externship in the participant's school system. In addition candidates must meet the admission standards of their graduate programs: full certification as a teacher and three years of successful teaching at the K-5 level; satisfactory score on GRE, MAT or other exams; satisfactory academic record.

Participants will be provided with room and board at the Institute, but will need to pay for the cost of their own transportation.

Participants will receive stipends according to the following schedule

At conclusion of Summer 2007	\$4,000
At conclusion of Summer 2008	\$5,000
At conclusion of Summer 2009	\$5,000
Upon Completion of Degree	
Requirements for Masters Degree	\$1,000

No tuition or fees are being charged to participants or their school systems.

Preliminary Schedule

Summer 2007 – Richmond

Number and Operations
Geometry and Measurement
Education/Leadership I (first half)

2007– 2008 School Year

Education/Leadership I (second half)
 The sessions will be four Saturdays in Richmond

Summer 2008 – Norfolk

Probability and Statistics
Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning
Education/Leadership II (first half)

2008 – 2009 School Year

Education/Leadership II (second half)
 The sessions will be four Saturdays in Richmond
Implications of Mathematics/Education Research
 (distance learning)

Summer 2009 UVA courses in Northern Virginia

Algebra and Functions
Externship Proposal Seminar
Education/Leadership III (first half)

2009– 2010 School Year

Education/Leadership III (second half)
 The sessions will be four Saturdays in Richmond
Externship within the participant's home school division

Dates of the 2007 Institute are:

Monday, June 25 – Friday, June 29
 Monday, July 2– Tuesday, July 3 @ noon
 Thursday, July 5 @ noon - Friday, July 6
 Monday, July 9 – Thursday, July 12
 Monday, July 16 – Thursday, July 19
 Monday, July 23– Thursday, July 26.

Classes will begin early in the morning on the first day of the week, with the expectation that participants will return to campus the previous evening. The sessions will end early in the afternoon on the final day of the week, so that participants could return home that day.